

**COMBAT TO COMMUNITY: A PRIMER FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
ON RE- ADJUSTMENT CHALLENGES IN RETURNING GLOBAL WAR  
ON TERROR VETERANS**

**DATE & TIME:** February 25, 2010  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*All registration is completed on the Learning Net prior to the training. Sign-in begins 30 minutes prior to the training time. All participants must arrive during the sign-in period. Late arrivals will not be admitted.*

**PLACE:** Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital, Hudson Auditorium  
12021 Wilmington Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

**PARKING:** Parking is available in lot C.

As of January, 2009, 1.8 million troops have deployed in support of the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Recently returned veterans are at an increased risk for experiencing symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Aggressive and other types of behaviors that push social and legal boundaries can be symptoms of these disorders, and of readjustment into civilian life. These behaviors can lead to increased contact with mental health services. Veterans have a unique culture that includes commonly shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that often characterize service in the military. This culture is not always immediately apparent, and providers who are not familiar with veteran culture or with the presentation of common disorders, such as PTSD, may be at an increased risk of experiencing poor outcomes in their interactions with veterans. This one-day course is an introductory training which will familiarize participants with veteran culture and common readjustment challenges. The course also focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and other common disorders in returning veterans.

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to:

1. Define what a veteran is and identify veterans in the evaluation/ assessment process through questions and identifying features.
2. Identify some of the available veteran benefits and the difficulties some veterans face trying to access those benefits.
3. Recognize behavioral and personal characteristics of military culture and values, the experience of deployment in a war zone, and the challenges of post-deployment readjustment to civilian life.
4. Accurately diagnose PTSD when making assessments of returning veterans.
5. Identify common co-occurring disorders and mental health challenges such as: substance use, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and suicidal ideation.
6. Discuss the assessment and variety of treatments available for veterans with these disorders.
7. Apply the de-escalation "grounding" technique to help agitated veterans.

**CONDUCTED BY:** Swords to Plowshares staff

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**DEADLINE:** WHEN ENROLLMENT REACHES CLASS CAPACITY

**CONTINUING  
EDUCATION:** 6 hours for BRN, BBS, CAADAC  
CE for psychologists

Inside the DMH firewall? Click here to register: <http://learningnet.lacounty.gov>

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